

## **Briefing Note of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

Present: Joe Walsh (Chairman), James Beecher, Neil Henry, Liam Murphy, Gerard McCloskey, Helen Kelly, Samuel Smyth, Paul Duffy, Taylor Vard, Georgia Stubbington, Robert McCormick, Comdt. Brian MacSweeney, Peter Molloy, Rita Dunne, Harold McGahern, Tony Hurley.

Apologies: John Jude Doyle, Lt. Col Gerry O’Gorman, Charles Powell, Jessica Harrington.

In Attendance: Damian McDonald (Chief Executive)  
Mark Bolger (Director of Finance & Operations)  
Alison Corbally (Director of Breeding & Programmes)  
Louise Donnelly (Administrative Assistant)

The Chairman welcomed the recently appointed Board members, Rita Dunne as an AIRE nominee who replaces David Abbott as an AIRC nominee in the AIRE/AIRC rotating seat arrangement and Peter Molloy as an Irish Pony Society (IPS) nominee who replaces Belle Balding as an Irish Pony Club (IPC) nominee in the IPS/IPC rotating seat arrangement.

### **Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting and Matters Arising:**

The draft minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.

### **Board Correspondence:**

There was no recent Board Correspondence to present to the Board.

### **Finance Report:**

The Director of Finance presented the 2011 Horse Sport Ireland draft accounts circulated to the Board prior to the meeting which had been audited by Grant Thornton and reviewed by the Finance Committee. It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee to the Board of Horse Sport Ireland that the accounts should be approved for adoption at the AGM. The Chairman invited questions or observations on the accounts.

There were some questions and discussion on the breakdown of the High Performance budget amongst under age teams. It was reported that the allocation model for development/ underage teams would be reviewed in September 2012 in conjunction with the Irish Sports Council and a new model proposed for the next Olympic cycle.

The draft accounts were then proposed for adoption at the AGM.

The Director of Finance also circulated the Horse Sport Ireland 2012 Year to Date draft budget figures and welcomed any questions.

### **Breeding Sub Board Report:**

The Director of Breeding & Programmes presented the Breeding Sub Board Report which was included in the meeting pack.

The following proposed Studbook rule changes included in the report were approved.

- *It was agreed to change the eligibility criteria for the classification of foreign bred stallions in the ENTRY stallion class. Previously foreign bred stallions that were Approved by a studbook that is a full member of the WBFSH were eligible for classification in the ENTRY stallion class. This has now been extended to all stallions that are registered in the main section of a studbook that is a full member of the WBFSH, providing they submit a DNA profile and have established pedigree. This will facilitate the registration of their progeny in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook.*
- *It was agreed to allow the registration of clones in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook. Such horses will be treated as an individual and will be identified as a clone on their passport/identification document.*
- *It was agreed to expand the eligibility criteria for Irish Sport Horse studbook inspections to include the progeny of stallions classified as NOT APPROVED 2 (NA2) and ENTRY.*

### **Sports Sub Board Report:**

The Chief Executive presented the Sports Sub Board report which was included in the meeting pack.

### **Disciplinary Panel Membership:**

A document was included in the meeting pack outlining the current constitution of the Horse Sport Ireland disciplinary panel and the proposal additional members to replace Justice Con Murphy and two other members who could no longer hold seats on the panel due to a conflict of interest with serving on the Horse Sport Ireland Board and the Horse Sport Ireland Rules Committee.

The additional proposed members below were approved by the Board.

Tommy Brennan	Former international rider
Brian Sugrue	Barrister and equestrian participant
Meta Osborne	Equine Veterinary Surgeon

### **Olympic Update:**

The Chief Executive confirmed the places currently secured for Ireland in the Olympic Games i.e. an Eventing team of 3 riders, two individual Showjumping riders and a team of 4 Para Dressage riders for the Paralympics. He noted that Ireland currently held 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place on the reserve list for Eventing and 1<sup>st</sup> reserve in Dressage and indicated that based on the current position of other qualified countries yet to qualify combinations, it looked very likely that Ireland would secure an individual place for Dressage and at least one and possibly two additional places in Eventing.

The confirmation of additional places would be made by the FEI on June 18<sup>th</sup>. In addition it looked very likely that Natalya Coyle had secured a place for Ireland in Modern Pentathlon which would be confirmed to the Olympic Council of Ireland on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Chief Executive noted that Pentathlon Ireland were now affiliated to Horse Sport Ireland and recognised that Natalya had become involved in Modern Pentathlon initially through the Irish Pony Club Tetrathlon competition.

The Chief Executive acknowledged that the selection of the riders to represent Ireland would be a difficult decision for the Showjumping and Eventing team managers. An appeals process is in place should any rider be unhappy with the selection decision. It was important that Board members directed riders towards this in the event that they were contacted by any rider or their representative who was unhappy at not being selected.

### **Report on Trade Mission to China:**

The Chief Executive presented a summary report of the Trade Mission to China led by Minister Simon Coveney TD which he attended from April 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. This report was included in the meeting pack. The Chairman invited any questions on the report.

Both the Chief Executive and the Chairman said that Minister Simon Coveney was very anxious for Horse Sport Ireland to follow up on the contacts made with China during the Trade Mission to capitalise on the opportunity to market and facilitate the export of the Irish horse to China and other countries.

### **Pentathlon Ireland – Abbottstown Proposal:**

The meeting pack included a copy of a proposal to the National Sports Campus Development Authority at Abbottstown prepared by Horse Sport Ireland with a proposal to renovate the facilities at Abbotstown to provide pre-Olympic training facilities for Pentathlon and to enable Ireland to host international federations such as the USA and Canada who had expressed a commitment to using Abbotstown as a pre-Olympic training facility for Modern Pentathlon.

The Director of Finance gave the background to the submission of this proposal and a summary overview.

**A.O.B:**

The Chairman thanked the Board members for a very constructive meeting. The next Board meeting was provisionally scheduled for **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept at 11.00am**

**ENDS**